GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:111
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
EXTINCTION OF SPECIES OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS
THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT;Y.G. MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details in regard to mode of census of birds and animals in the country;

(b) the names of species of birds and animals at present in the country;

(c) the details of species of birds and animals which have been on the verge of extinction during the last five years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save species of rare birds and animals in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c)&(d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 111 FO 26.11.2001 REGARDING EXTINCTION OF SPECIES OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS

(a) Estimation of population of birds and animals is done by following methods:

i. Direct visual count.
ii. Interpretations of evidences like droppings, pug-marks, number of calls, number of kills etc.
iii. Photo-trap method.
iv. Capture, release and recapture.
v. Radio-telemetry.

(b) It is estimated that there are more than 89,451 species of animals including birds in the country. It is not possible to give the names of all these species. However, names of important species of animals and birds have been listed in the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) No species has reached the verge of extinction during the last five years. However, there has been alarming decrease in the number of vultures in the country during this period.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to save the rare birds and animals in the country includes: -

i. Hunting of all wild animals and birds has been banned under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

ii. Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as national parks and sanctuaries. Some of the important wetlands have also been notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.

iii. Regular patrolling of the area to control poaching and illegal trade in wild animals and their products is done. Cooperation of other enforcement agencies and international organisations is also taken in this regard.

iv. Management of the wildlife habitats is done on scientific lines for betterment of wildlife.

v. Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of national parks and sanctuaries.

vi. Scientific research for monitoring population status of various species and evolving strategies for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of various species.

vii. Transfer of wildlife management technology to field managers through training and workshops.

viii. Creation of awareness about the importance of Wildlife conservation.

ix. Action to implement the recommendations of the international workshop on vultures has been initiated.

x. Implementation of Coimbatore Charter arrived atthe Conference of State Ministers of Environment & Forests at Coimbatore on 29th and 30th January, 2001 to mitigate the problem relating to wildlife conservation.